

HONOLULU, HAWAII TERRITORY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1909.

## THE ANNUAL REPORT OF GOVERNOR FREAR

### Hawaii's Leading Optimist



GOV. WALTER F. FREAR.

If anyone remains unconvinced that Hawaii is a good place to live in, the actual "Paradise of the Pacific," let him glance over the annual report of the Governor to the secretary of the interior. The report is out today and even the necessity of reducing the prosperity of the past twelve months to statistics has been unable to cover up all the things for which this Territory and the people of the Territory have to be grateful.

Good crops, decreased public debt, sensible legislation outweighing the nonsensical, no epidemics, more ships, more railroads, better harbors, better wireless and telephone systems, good prospects of improvements in the land laws, more public works, better business, more complete recognition of the value of the Islands to the Union and a growth in population, are some of the things spoken of, a remarkable year's record of growth and prosperity.

Hawaii has not everything necessary for her complete satisfaction, of course, and the Governor touches on some of these.

"The passenger accommodations are still excessively inadequate," he reports. "There is urgent need of relief through action by congress."

The land laws need the further attention of congress and the reclamation act should be extended to the Territory and there are a few other links in the Organic Act that need straightening out.

Portions of the report follow:

#### Importance More Apparent.

The importance of Hawaii's mid-Pacific position, from a national and an international standpoint, for military and commercial purposes is constantly becoming more apparent and more generally recognized as this ocean approaches the fulfillment of the long-ago prophecy that it was destined to become the theater of the world's greatest political and commercial activities. Trans-Pacific commerce in freight and passengers by way of Hawaii is growing. These islands are visited more and more by naval as well as merchant vessels, including during the last year the Atlantic fleet, the Pacific fleet (twice), and many other American, British, German, French and Italian war vessels. The United States is improving the harbors of the Territory, equipping the islands with light-houses, thoroughly fortifying the island of Oahu, and providing for a naval station at Pearl Harbor with gratifying rapidity.

#### Businesslike Legislation.

During the year the regular biennial session of the legislature was held. Its results were highly satisfactory. It completed its work within the time limited by law, and it manifested throughout a businesslike spirit. It did much toward placing the finances of both the Territory and the counties on a good permanent basis and enacted many salutary laws. Considerable progress has been made in the development of local government. The functions of the counties, which were established only a few years ago, were greatly extended by the last legislature. There is manifest a growing disposition on the part of the electorate to insist that the local governments shall be administered economically and efficiently.

#### Public Debt.

All that remained of the 5 per cent. bonds, which were also all that remained of the bonds issued before annexation, amounting to \$20,000, have been paid, and \$29,532.66 turned into the sinking fund for other bonds. The public debt is now \$3,959,000, or 2.85 per cent. of the assessed value of real and personal property. The current receipts for the year were \$3,051,526.81, an increase of \$381,778.49 over the amount for the previous year. The expenditures were \$2,934,984.10, an increase of \$117,605.24. The receipts exceeded the expenditures by \$116,542.71.

#### Prosperity.

The prosperity of the previous year

has continued. Crops have been large and prices good. The exports and imports for the year amounted to \$61,946,484, exclusive of specie. This was only slightly under the amount for the preceding year, which was by far the largest up to that time. The increase in imports from the mainland of the United States exceeded those of the previous year by \$2,088,081. There has been a steady increase in such imports during the last five years from \$11,703,519 to \$17,391,406. The customs receipts, which go into the federal treasury, amounted to \$1,396,379.91. The assessed value of real and personal property is \$138,910,820. Further progress has been made in the diversification of industries, and particularly in the multiplication and growth of industries suitable for small proprietors. Two new industries, tobacco and cotton, have been established, with good prospects. There has been a marked increase in tourist and other passenger travel to and through Hawaii, besides arrivals of detachments of military and naval forces and others connected therewith.

#### Better Transportation.

Transportation facilities have been increased, and steps have been begun for still further increasing them by additional steamers and railroad extension as well as improvement of harbors.

#### Conservation and Immigration.

Much valuable scientific work has been done for the benefit of agriculture. Interest in questions of conservation of natural resources has deepened and spread, and the legislature has made generous provision, by an additional income tax, for promoting this object, especially through the work of the territorial board of agriculture and forestry, a hydrographic survey, and aid to the federal experiment station. A territorial conservation commission has been appointed. Four forest reserves were proclaimed, aggregating 101,614 acres.

Much attention has been given to the subject of immigration and labor. Provision, by means of a special tax which will yield several hundred thousand dollars a year, was made by the legislature for the introduction of laborers of desirable classes who will be likely to become citizens and home owners. A strike, involving about 7000 Japanese laborers and lasting three months, occurred on a number of the sugar plantations of the island of Oahu, but resulted in failure. It was brought about by agitators and not by any general feeling of dissatisfaction on the part of the laborers. It did not check the operations of the plantations concerned. There was a remarkable absence of violence.

#### No Epidemics.

The public health has been good. No epidemics have occurred. There have been no cases of plague or cholera. In furtherance of the radical change planned for the treatment of leprosy the legislature enacted a very satisfactory law upon that subject. It is hoped that a decided advance may now be made in overcoming that disease. The federal leprosy hospital, at the leper settlement, has been completed. The legislature also provided for the inauguration of a campaign against tuberculosis, the number of deaths from which have increased greatly during the last decade.

#### Public Improvements.

Public improvements have been made by the Territory to the amount of about \$225,000 in the construction of public buildings, schoolhouses, teachers' cottages, roads, bridges, wharves, landings, and water and sewer and other works, besides much that has been done by the county governments, particularly in roads.

There has been an increase of 1444 in the number of pupils enrolled in the schools.

The courts have in the main kept up to date in their work, excepting the United States district court, and for that an additional judge has been provided for by congress and has been appointed.

The national guard has been increased and steps have been taken for rais-

ing the necessary funds from private sources for the erection of an armory.

#### Coastwise Suspension.

The coastwise navigation laws should be suspended for a limited period as to passenger traffic between Hawaii and the mainland, or other provision should be made to afford the necessary facilities for such traffic.

#### Good Legislation.

The last legislature was one of the best. It manifested throughout the session a business-like spirit and a desire to do what was best for the Territory. It not only endeavored to obtain full information itself and act accordingly, but it held a number of public meetings in order to ascertain public sentiment and obtain all the light possible from others upon a number of important subjects. It provided for a number of commissions to investigate various subjects and report thereon by the 1st of July next year for action by the next legislature, which will meet the following February.

#### Important Legislation.

Another exceedingly important bill

was one inaugurating a new policy in regard to the handling of leprosy, which it is believed will within a reasonably short period result in the practical eradication of that disease if that can be accomplished at all. Provision was made also for inaugurating a campaign by the territorial board of health against tuberculosis.

Other bills include one of an advanced character in regard to juvenile courts, one providing for indeterminate sentences, and one for the establishment of a territorial library.

Some of the best work of the legislature was done in defeating undesirable bills, notably a strenuously pressed amendatory bill that would have greatly impaired the efficiency of the very excellent Four bill passed by the previous legislature.

#### Increased Tonnage.

The steady increase of some years past in the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared has continued during the last fiscal year, when the amount was the largest thus far, namely, 1,159,118 tons entered and 1,159,749 cleared, exclusive of vessels engaged in inter-

island traffic, which is nearly as much additional.

Although the tonnage entered has increased from 952,504 to 1,159,118 since the organization of the territorial government, the number of vessels has steadily decreased from 705 to 391. This is due mainly to the substitution of steamships for sailing vessels.

For many years about three-fourths of the vessels and of the tonnage have been under the American flag, while about nine-tenths of the freight has been carried in American bottoms. American vessels of course carry all the freight between Hawaii and the mainland and they carry also nearly half the freight in the trade with foreign countries.

#### Transportation Facilities.

The matter of transportation facilities is of greatest importance in Hawaii. There is need of more railroads upon the several islands, at least one good harbor on each island, and two on the largest, a reduction of freight and passenger rates, and especially an increase in available accommodations for passengers and perishable goods.

particularly fresh fruits, between the Territory and the mainland.

Considerable progress has been made in these directions during the last year. A number of steamers have been added in the trans-Pacific traffic and the traffic between the Territory and the mainland, with increased accommodations for freight and to some extent for perishable goods. The passenger accommodations, however, are still excessively inadequate. Tourist and other passenger traffic both to Hawaii and across the Pacific, with stopovers at Hawaii, is rapidly increasing, but owing to the coastwise navigation laws people frequently can not obtain passage from Hawaii to the mainland when they desire to, because the eastbound American trans-Pacific vessels are full or nearly so when they arrive at Honolulu, and travel on foreign vessels is forbidden. There is urgent need of relief through action of congress.

The position of Hawaii is of rapidly growing importance in the commercial development of the Pacific. The ports of the Territory are used more and more as points of call for through steamers and naval vessels, and the commerce of the Islands themselves is increasing rapidly.

#### Population and Immigration.

It is nine years since the last census was taken, and the conditions are such as to make it difficult to estimate the present population. The next census will be made during the present fiscal year, as will also the investigation of labor conditions in Hawaii required by the Organic Act to be made by the commissioner of labor. Such an investigation was required at first annually, but the act was subsequently amended so as to require it once in five years, alternate ones occurring at the taking of the census.

A rough estimate places the population at the present time at about 175,000, divided somewhat as follows: Orientals, 98,000, namely, Japanese 75,000, Chinese 18,000, Koreans 5000; Latins, 27,000, namely, Portuguese 23,000, Spanish 2000, Porto Ricans 2000; Poly-nesian, practically all Hawaiians and part Hawaiians, 35,000; Teutons, practically all of American, British, German and Norwegian descent, 14,000; others, 1000.

#### Japanese.

The departures of Japanese during the last year have far exceeded the arrivals, which are now confined mostly to returning Japanese or relatives of Japanese already in the Territory. Previously, since the close of the Japan-Russia war, the arrivals exceeded the departures. During the war the departures nearly doubled the arrivals, and for several years before that there was little difference. Among the Japanese arrivals during the last few years there has been a large increase in the percentage of females, they having constituted more than 50 per cent. the last year, as compared with about 33 per cent. the previous year and 11 per cent. the year before that. The result has been a large increase in Japanese births, more than half the reported births being of that race. Japanese pupils have increased in number from 1352 in 1900 to 6415 in 1909. The decrease in the Chinese population due to departures and nonarrivals is largely offset by births, and also by arrivals of Chinese children for the purpose of attending school. Many Chinese boys have come recently for that purpose. The Portuguese are increasing rapidly; the pupils of that nationality number 4696. Pure Hawaiians are slowly decreasing and part Hawaiians increasing; the combined pupils of these two classes number 8289.

#### Citizens.

The Hawaiians, most of the Teutons and a large majority of the Portuguese are citizens. Many Chinese and Japanese are also, chiefly by birth. Before the termination of the monarchy, 731 Chinese and one Japanese were naturalized, most of whom have probably died or left the Islands. How many are citizens by birth is unknown, or how large a factor they will make as voters in the future. Many Japanese

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